IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) Method of processing data which represents a sequence of pictures, previously encoded and decoded, comprising at least in series the steps of:

- examining pixels within a picture of said sequence to detecting edge pixels and non-edge pixelswithin a picture;.

- determinchoosing pixels to be filtered from among the detected non-edge pixels which were not detected as edges in the previous step, a pixel to be filtered; and

- replacing at least athe chosen pixel to be filtered with a pixel that is selected from among said chosen pixel and at least one pixel of said pixels within a picture in immediate vertical, horizontal or diagonal adjacency with said chosen pixelbelonging to a close neighborhood of said pixel, said close neighborhood comprising said pixel and pixels adjacent to said pixel.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method of processing data as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the selected pixel to be filtered is replaced withis the median pixel of a set having an odd number of members from among said detected non-edge pixels which were not detected as edges, at least one of said odd number of members being said chosen pixel, said odd number of members comprising said at least one pixel in immediate vertical, horizontal or diagonal adjacencythe set comprising at least once said pixel and pixels adjacent to said pixel.

3.   (Original) A method of processing data as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method is applied to the luminance component of the pixels of said picture.

4.   (Original) A method of processing data as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pixel is detected as an edge pixel if a magnitude representative of a gradient of the pixel is greater than a predetermined threshold.

5.   (Original) A method of processing data as claimed in claim 4, wherein a pixel is detected as an edge pixel if the horizontal component of a gradient of said pixel is greater than the vertical component of said gradient and if the modulus of said gradient is greater than both the modulus of the gradient of the adjacent pixel on the left and the modulus of the gradient of the adjacent pixel on the right.

6.   (Original) A method of processing data as claimed in claim 4, wherein a pixel is detected as an edge pixel if the vertical component of a gradient of said pixel is greater than the horizontal component of said gradient and if the modulus of said gradient is greater than both the modulus of the gradient of the adjacent lower pixel and the modulus of the gradient of the adjacent upper pixel.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method of processing data as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pixel is filtered if the number of edges pixels in a defined neighborhood of the pixel lies within a defined range.

8.   (Original)   A filtering device for carrying out a method as claimed in claim 1.

9.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising a software module for storing a set of instructions executable under the control of a

computer or a processor and provided for performing at least some of the steps of the

processing method as claimed in claim 1.